

Engelman Outhbuilding
320 Morningside Drive
Llysven Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5905

HABS
PA
7-ALTO
127-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ENGELMAN OUTBUILDING

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Location: 320 Morningside Drive

Date of Erection: ca. 1923

Description: Because this has always been a utilitarian building, its form and function may well have changed over the years, but such transformations are difficult to trace. At present, it serves as a storage space and workshop with an upstairs apartment. The shallow pitched roof has gables on the north and south sides with a moderate overhang, and extends on the east side to incorporate an obvious addition to the upstairs apartment. Windows on the north facade are random, and of assorted types. A tall, wide double door with six-light windows, probably original, is too narrow to accommodate a modern automobile. A panelled door leads to an office, and exterior stairs on the east end of the building lead to the apartment entrance. The downstairs is clad in wide weatherboard, with asphalt shingles above.

History: Alphonse Engelman acquired this lot from the Altoona Suburban Home Company in 1919, but his brother, Emil, was responsible for the construction of this building, perhaps as early as 1923, when he was assessed for a "small shanty" on half of lot 10, block 20, valued at \$250. Emil owned several lots here after 1928 and ran the property as a private nursery, raising plants for his landscape business. In 1930, as a nonresident, he was assessed for three lots and a "small dwelling," valued at \$400. That designation, referring to the same three lots, changed in 1938 to a "stucco garage," with a value of \$600. Keeping in mind the occasional imprecision of tax records especially in regard to the function of outbuildings, which often changed, these three terms may or may not all describe the same building, whose upstairs may well have been stuccoed at one time. Engelman kept several other small buildings on these lots in support of his business, including two or three greenhouses. His great-grandson, whose flower garden lies between this building and Morningside Drive, now lives in the upstairs apartment and stores his tools and equipment below. The main space behind the double door serves as a workshop.

Sources: Sanborns: 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 278/297, 372/547. Will books: 57/316, 208/7. Interview: Geraldine Engelman, 318 Morningside Dr., June 18, 1989.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.